

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /117 W
----- 042021

R 101408Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3329

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MASERU 0748

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LT, SF

SUBJ: BNP GENERAL SECRETARY REPLIES TO MOKHEHLE STATEMENT
ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION

REF : MASERU 623

1. MASOPHA KATISO, BNP SECRETARY GENERAL, HAS CHARACTERIZED AS DEPLORABLE AND ALARMING THE STATEMENT BY BCP LEADER NTSU MOKHEHLE ON LESOTHO'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE IN RELATION TO RSA WHICH WAS BROADCAST OVER SABC LAST MONTH (SEE REFTEL).

2. KATISO SAID BNP UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMNS STATEMENT AND HAS IN PAST AND WILL IN FUTURE OPPOSE ANY UNION WITH RSA. BNP STANDS FOR INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATE AND MOKHEHLE'S STATEMENT CONFIRMS BNP ASSERTION THAT HE IS POLITICAL CHAMELEON.

3. KATISO WENT ON TO SAY THAT BCP WAS SPLIT AND MOKHEHLE HAD WRESTED POWER AND ASSUMED DICTATORIAL POWERS TO EXCLUSION OF HIS DEPUTY (G. P. RAMOREBOLI). BNP THEREFORE WARNED BASOTHO NATION NOT TO BE MISLED BY MOKHEHLE AND HIS GROUP WHO OPENLY
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ENCOURAGE AND SOLICIT INCORPORATION OF LESOTHO WITH RSA.

4. COMMENTING ON MOKHEHLE STATEMENT THAT RSA DOES NOT NEED DIALOGUE WITH ALL AFRICA BUT ONLY WITH HER IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, KATISO RECALLED THAT BNP INITIATED AND HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR DIALOGUE AND NOT VIOLENCE. BUT TO CONFINE DIALOGUE TO RSA'S NEIGHBORS ONLY SHOWS MOKHEHLE'S POLITICAL SHORTSIGHTEDNESS. THE QUESTION OF APARTHEID IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM, SECONDLY A CONTINENTAL PROBLEM, AND THIRDLY AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. ITS AIM IS TO DEGRADE AFRICA AND UNDERMINE GOOD RELATIONS AMONG HUMAN BEINGS.

5. KATISO ALSO NOTED THAT MOKHEHLE'S PREVIOUS ANTAGONISTIC STATEMENTS TOWARD RSA HAVE SOFTENED AND PECUNIARY OFFERS MAY HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE TOWARD MAKING SUCH UNPATRIOTIC STATEMENT. BASOTHO SHOULD BEWARE SELFISH AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS BEING RESORTED TO BY CERTAIN POLITICAL LEADERS IN LIAISON WITH FOREIGN INTERESTS TO SUBMERGE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELOVED FATHERLAND, LESOTHO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MASERU00748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730743/aaaabfqf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MASERU 623
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BNP GENERAL SECRETARY REPLIES TO MOKHEHLE STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005